

[23 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

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| i. Approved the Conceptual Plan prepared by Dr. A. K. Barooah present Director of the Institute.  | The Conceptual Plan prepared by Director. NEIGRIHMS was considered in this Ministry and accordingly Memorandum for |
| ii. Endorsed the decision of the 7th SFC meeting held on 7.4.99 for constitution of a Planning Committee for Planning, Phasing and Monitoring the implementation of Master Plan of Project Report and to offer aft* course corrections. | Expenditure Finance Committee was prepared. Subsequently this was approved by EFC and CCEA                         |
| iii. That, M/s. HSCC should establish their own office at Shillong with adequate technical manpower to supervise the construction work at the permanent site (Mawdiangdiang).   | HSCC has established their office at Shillong.   |
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#### **Discovery of anti-AIDS enzyme**

3974. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 19th March, 2001 under the caption, "Indian designs anti-AIDS enzyme";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of the enzyme discovered;

(c) whether the same has been published in any national or international medical journal of repute; and

(d) by when the new discovery could be made applicable to HIV/ AIDS positive persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A DNA-enzyme has been identified against the Tat gene of HIV-I, which has inhibitory action on laboratory-adapted strain of HIV-1 in tissue culture.

(c) Yes, Sir. It has been published in the journal titled "Biochemical Journal" in the year 2000.

(d) This is a promising approach towards development of new anti-AIDS agents. However, it would require further study before its application in the programme.

**News-Item, "Indian Red Cross Society Ki Pradhan Mahasachib Ki Niyukti Me Manmani"**

3975. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian Red Cross Society Ki Pradhan Mahasachib Ki Niyukti Me Manmani" which appeared in the Jansatta dated 9th February, 2001;

(b) whether Government will order an enquiry into the affairs;

(c) if so, the time-frame thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The requisite information was called from Indian Red Cross Society. The information furnished by them in their letter dated 16.4.2001 was incomplete and hence the said Society have been again requested to furnish the complete information at an early date. Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of complete information.

**Filing of FIR against J. Mitra and Co.**

3976. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply to